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Observations of a Progressive Religionist

HELPS TO LIFE, HEALTH
HAPPINESS AND RELIGION

BY
AARON WIRPEL

I improve a little every day thru the power of God

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by
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FOREWORD

The following thots have come to me as I have struggled forward. They came into my mind and I believed them to be original. Most of them were published in Cleveland papers in 1917, some have appeared in Jewish papers, over one hundred of them in a Catholic paper, a few in a Y. M. C. A. bulletin and others in a Theosophic magazine.

Since publication I have observed a number of the thots to be re-statements of thots expressed by others. As I believe they are of value I have retained them. Truths need to be constantly re-stated if they are to be most effective.

Many of the observations came as inspirations, some of them are reactions to reading and life, others are the result of tested experiments.

I want to know the Truth. I must accept it eventually. I am willing to accept it now, but I cannot take it on the authority of tradition. Wherever I have found a group of people who were willing to sacrifice for their convictions, I have sought to appropriate the

kernels of Truth I was able to pick from their literature.

I am convinced that no single group has all the Truth. I am also convinced that whatever is identical in many groups is practical Truth. I am willing to be wrong if thereby I can be made right. I am fully convinced that what is tested truth for me is perhaps only good theory for another.

When I started on a trail to find God, I very soon realized that I needed a Teacher, but found it very difficult to select one. I therefore hit on the plan of consecrating my life to God and humanity, and under God co-operating with every great teacher in the world. I have been taught how all power comes from the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient source, and that a different degree and quality of it flows thru God, Jehovah, I AM that I AM, Lord of Hosts, Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Mohammed, and also others toward all lives. I have tested the "spiritual waters" of every great religion and I have found them to be sweet.

Frankly, I do not know just what position Jesus holds in the scheme of things, but I do know he is a power for good in any life he touches. I have yet to find one soul who

has fully consecrated himself to God and humanity, under his guidance, who was not a better man thereafter.

When it became imperative that I have a personal teacher, I chose Jesus because he was a Jew and because I believed he was a "Master of the Wisdom."

For such progress as I have made and such knowledge as I possess I am indebted to Him. Under his guidance I have experimented with the influences that are active in the life of the various religions.

The recent public discussions of religion have convinced me that the time is ripe for the message as it has been unfolded to me.

Fundamentally, I believe in One God, one humanity, responsibility to God for all of our actions, duty to humanity according to our capacity.

I expect to improve a little every day thru the power of God.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. H. C. Muckley for his encouragement and for reading and correcting my MMS.

Aaron Wirpel.

March, 1923.

PREFACE

I stand on the platform of Truth. I shall always thank anyone who will point out unsound planks in this platform.

I am not an authority. Truth is the only authority. In so far as I voice Truth, am I an authority.

I am not pro-jewish, pro-christian, pro-mohammedan, pro-buddhist, but pro-truth.

Only God is wise. I am wise in the degree in which I express His wisdom. In a degree every being, every philosophy, science, religion and enthusiasm is an expression of His Truth. Open-mindedness toward everyone of these is the only means of appropriating the truth they contain.

In all my writing or speaking I reserve the right to improve on what I have said.

What I may accomplish in life is to God's credit, not mine. His power and wisdom guide me. I am but the servant. He is the Lord.

I never regret what I cannot get—after I think it over.

To express ideals does not imply that you live according to them, but that an aspect of your nature is in sympathy with them.

There's a little of every kind of evil in me, but I'll always try to make that little less.

Any good that I have done has been accomplished under the spell of the religious influence.

Whenever I do what in my heart I believe is right, I gain new life and inspiration.

I read the Bible because it gives me knowledge, comfort, enjoyment and refreshment.

About many religious beliefs I admit I do not know. I believe only that which I can understand and what is helpful, and hope ever to improve my beliefs until I can think God's thoughts after Him.

I believe in the special mission of every man, nation and race. The experiences that we are being put thru will prepare us for the work we can and will do.

One whose life is consecrated to God loses the feeling of race distinction. I feel myself

a Jew, yet my understanding of Truth makes me in perfect sympathy with Catholic and Protestant Christianity, Christian Science, Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Bahaism, Zoroastrianism, Theosophy and New Thought, for at the altitude of Truth all are the same. At lower levels of thot I must of necessity disagree with their conceptions, yet I feel the tie of brotherhood with their adherents.

My philosophy helps me to bear other peoples troubles cheerfully and view my own more lightheartedly.

These messages came into my mind. If they are eternally true they came from God. If not, they are just my opinions, which I hope to outgrow.

These thots are not an effort to reform the world, but the record of thots with which I have tried to reform myself. However, you may find them valuable.

There is some truth to be found everywhere. My aim is to get the sum of truth in everything.

Life

OPTIMISM

Everything that happens is not good, but good must be made out of it. The Spirit of God in you, whether you pray or not or whether you live a good or unenlightened life, is nevertheless trying to produce some good from your experiences. If you pray and endeavor to live a good life, recuperation is more speedy. If you do not pray and lead an unenlightened life, the Spirit continues to wrestle with you and finally conquers.

All folks are beautiful within. Temper, hate and selfishness are the curtains that hide one's beauty.

The optimist says when it's raining—it's a fine rainy day.

Kicking about the weather never paid any dividends of happiness, though one may kill time at it.

It always makes some one else feel better when you feel fine, and thus express yourself.

If your philosophy of life is correct, every experience in life will enrich you.

Things are either good or bad, according to the degree of thot you put upon them. View things from an eternal standpoint and everything is good—for something.

Before marriage each sees the ideal in the other. After marriage each has an opportunity to help realize it.

Life's difficulties are such mainly because of our likes and dislikes. Dwell on the good that is in every circumstance and soon you will like everything in an ever greater degree.

Spiritual sunlight is as necessary for the soul and mind, to illumine the path of life, as physical sunlight is necessary to right progress physically.

War is terrible, to be sure, but earth life is only a "stage life" and the "soul smiles at the drawn dagger."

To have a common name is always a challenge to be a superior person.

Only as you see the God element in all things can you live truly.

It is not necessary to become a Christian Scientist to be healed. The Lord heals thru

His power in every religion. It is fine, however, to get the Christian Scientist's constructive point of view regarding every adverse condition in life. Environment has a moulding effect upon your nature. This is especially true of the environment you carry around under your hat. That which you observe, think or express leaves a definite reaction, after its kind, in your nature. Hang the walls of your soul and mind with cheerful pictures, sunny ideas and refined elements generally and you are bound to make friends, improve your health, and add to the joy of living for the rest of us.

Only as we behold the good, true and beautiful in another can we feel the tie of brotherhood.

If you observe the virtues of others, you will be expressing those virtues in your own life. If you observe their shortcomings, you add them to your own.

Always believe that you are winning until you are definitely counted out. Then, size up the situation and go at it until you are counted in.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

A righteous act gives satisfaction as a cash payment, and continues forever to give dividends of harmony.

Eternal righteousness, the righteousness that is the expression of the Spirit of the Eternal God thru you, brings salvation. The positive and continuous transgression of the Eternal Law, according to its degree, dams up the flow of the Universal Forces thru you. That is the only damnation!

You cannot sin with the Spirit. The divine spark does not lend its power to wrong-doing, that is why there is sin.

Every act is right from some viewpoint. The religious education aims to develop the universal viewpoint.

Courage is an element of the soul and its fire can only be maintained by righteousness.

The human soul is the "rock" that must be struck by the rod of righteousness to bring forth the "water of life."

Fear, ignorance and sin drain the energies of your being. Faith, truth and righteousness carry life giving currents into your life stream.

The degree of righteousness of every act is the degree of force thereafter ensouling you, at that angle of your nature. The principles of every action become a part of your constitution. The quality of your constitution becomes the quality of your nature.

We can serve God in war as well as in peace, if our work is in co-operation with His Will, namely, righteousness.

When humanity stops sowing unrighteousness will the world cease reaping wars. Are you planting seeds for another war?

Every righteous action gives you more life, greater vision, unfolds your intelligence and deepens your understanding. Every unrighteous act diminishes your life power, dulls your understanding, beclouds your intelligence and lowers the degree of your vision.

One wrong deed makes you a debtor to every being; one righteous action a creditor to every life.

JUSTICE

Whatever you do gives you ability to do in greater measure, and that is always your compensation, even if fame denies you a place on her rolls.

What you condemn in another you plant in your physical, mental or spiritual nature. What you admire in another feeds like qualities in your own being.

A small cloud obscures the mighty sun, so a few faults obscure the many virtues of a man or a nation.

Your reward is here and now, as well as ever after, for any good you may do.

If you are not kind or courteous to another, you are the main sufferer.

The consciousness of wrong-doing publishes itself in your thots, feelings, and expression.

The ideas you hold and entertain are an index of the quality of the spiritual life flowing into your soul.

Whatever is within, is attracting more of its kind, in friends, in thots, in feelings, in the things you see and hear.

Man decorates his heroes by pinning gold on their breasts. Nature, by illuminating their souls with greater life, light, truth, love, will, wisdom and fire.

The compensation for doing God's will is that God's Spirit lives in you in a greater degree.

What you observe in another you will in time cause others to observe in you.

Thankfulness creates a higher tone quality in spirit, soul, mind, emotions and body.

Every adversity may be considered an initiation into a higher degree of the soul.

When you speak an untruth you blur the windows of your soul.

Revenge is sweet, but forgiveness is sweeter.

Your nature is composed of the expressions of your life. Every part of your nature being the reaction of your life, heretofore.

All events carry their blessing with them.

Generous actions react upon you, bringing forth from within a more generous flow of power. Selfish actions tend to diminish your powers.

Ignorance does not lessen the effect of a crime. Can mercy step in and lessen the effect of the reaction?

Greatness is merely a matter of the practical realization that every one is a child of God.

When your judgment decides upon the best course of action, the habit of your being often turns you into another channel.

Justice overtakes every soul sooner or later. Every sin will handicap you in life's progress. Every virtue will sometime give you the lead in life's struggle.

Your feelings of today are largely the result of the motives in your actions of other days.

The elemental quality of your motives becomes woven into your soul nature.

God is just and merciful. Man must atone for every wrong. The suffering is mercifully

sent when the character is growing and the adverse influence will in its reaction enlarge and beautify the nature. Those who sincerely seek to do His Will find this true.

True charity will begin, for those in business, at the price making point, rather than at the profit margin! For the worker, in the quality and quantity of his work, rather than from his pay envelope!

When you do not punish a man for wrongdoing, you punish him most, for then God attends to him. Nevertheless God punishes society for failing to punish any wrong in its power to correct.

Every kindness you do causes you to gravitate towards kind people. Every vicious action brings you into association with like characters. If your present environment is distasteful to you, change the influences in your heart and mind and you will view and touch your associates at a higher altitude or you will be moved from them.

Every time you do an immoral, unrighteous or vicious action, you become a channel for some type of malignant influence, that is sure to harm you and may become the means of polluting the community.

You cannot be moral, righteous or noble without carrying some gracious, refining, wholesome influences in your heart, that beautify your life and spread a beneficent spirit in the community.

Deliberately "putting it over" on the other fellow, creates a kink in your make-up, so that when you want to think and act straight you find it very difficult. What you gain while creating this "kink" you will lose in getting rid of it, besides the hardship involved in eradicating it from your system.

Whatever you think, feel or do, becomes a part of your nature. It matters not, therefore, that you are not observed doing either good or ill. The quality of the soul force of your actions is radiating out to the world its nature in your character.

The law of compensation is ever active on physical, mental and spiritual planes. No injustice has ever been done, can ever be done, viewing the entire nature of man, and considering life as eternal.

What you express you inspire. The law of increase operates in regard to every expression. Give expression to love, friendship and

sympathy and your capacity to love, to be friendly and sympathetic is enlarged. Voice hate, be indifferent and callous and your nature becomes saturated with these elements.

Part of the reward of virtue is the love of all children that it begets, the appreciation of all good folks and the gradual approval and respect of all peoples.

We think from Principle as we act from principles.

We cannot manufacture mind products of very much better grade than the material we put in.

The things you say attune your ears to the things you will hear.

The slackening of any principle paves the way for deterioration in other respects. The strengthening of any principle or quality strengthens every element of character.

LIBERTY

Obedience to your Higher Nature gives you ever more liberty; obedience to your lower nature makes you an ever greater slave.

There will never be liberty in the world until righteousness dominates every soul.

Physical relations are very important, but your mental, soul and spiritual relations are very much more so, and they may be of your selection.

Every violation of the Divine Law, consciously or unconsciously, diminishes your power on all planes of life, and limits your field, as well as freedom of action.

In the degree that you live from Principle will the soul come into dominance in your life, bringing with it the latent capacity, talent, faculties and powers that are your divine heritage. These have been submerged, in most of us, by the weight of our vices.

FAITH

Faith, in a religious sense means that the soul is threaded, ensouled with the religious influence of a particular religion.

You cannot inspire others with a greater degree of inspiration, faith or knowledge than you possess.

Under the wings of faith are carried the ideas that make every important work successful.

Just so long as you are conscious that you are master of any situation, just so long are you the master.

Faith is of the soul, belief is of the mind. Faith, therefore, has a higher causative value.

All the good the world has ever known is still a part of it. The nations are experiencing unusual conditions and have not as yet reacted to them. These conditions are temporary, but the good that will come out of them will permanently benefit mankind. Carry on!

I believe in the Eternal Trust that considers the well-being of all, playing favorites with none.

DUTY

When you act from desire, the satisfaction depends upon the quality of the desire. When you act from a sense of duty, the satisfaction comes from a loftier plane and is proportionately sweeter.

Just as we have no right to pass counterfeit coins, so also we have no right to pass sickly or gloomy thots about.

You strew the path with flowers for many, when you plant them in your yards.

God is made manifest to man thru man. Open your heart to your fellow-man and the life of God will cement your relations to each other and to Him in a greater degree.

Duty to God is never fulfilled unless expressed in greater service to man.

There must be a spiritual awakening in the world if the wounds of the war are to be healed.

When you strike a note on the piano, it gives forth its sound, so when you see good-

ness in another you strike that chord and it must respond.

Every noble life dispels a great cloud of prejudice from the race of which it is a member.

It is always a duty to see the good in every one. That which is evil in another is between him and his God.

We live to fulfill God's Will in relation to every being in the universe. He alone can teach it.

We should judge a man by his ideals. What he is, is the result of his past. What he aspires to be is a prophesy of what he shall be.

To do a kind act to others beautifies them as well as enhances your own beauty of soul.

To say that a particular action is the duty of another, presupposes that you know their entire past and future. Every duty has some relation to a man's past and an equal relation to his future, almost I would say, a greater relation to his future.

UNSELFISHNESS

If a divine motive inspires an action, a surplus amount of energy is generated to carry it to execution.

The motives that actuate your life determine the quality of the music you play, in thot, in feeling and in action.

Unselfish motives tap the reservoir of life.

Living unselfishly makes you aware of the finer influences of everything about you. Living from selfish motives causes you to feel the lower influences about you.

The price of wisdom is unselfishness.

Every man is wise about some things, getting wise about others and otherwise about the rest.

The degree of unselfishness of your plans determines the amount of power you generate to execute them.

An unselfish motive, thot or feeling expressed in action, adds grace to your bearing.

Base motives increase the desire for coarse pleasures. Noble motives cause the finer pleasures to appeal.

All of us have two sides to our nature, human and divine. As we act from selfish or unselfish principles do we bring one or the other into greater prominence.

Unselfish actions are the channels thru which the Spirit expresses itself. Selfishness dams up the soul-life and soul-powers.

Unselfish actions give strength and growth to the spiritual man and help to put the "clay" man in his proper sphere, as servant, not master.

No man can be happy long who is selfish. No man can be unhappy long who is unselfish.

Get inoculated with the joy germ. It abounds in the stream of force generated thru unselfish living.

Self-sacrifice is the cement that binds man to man.

If you have any weakness or imperfection in your nature, observe and you will notice that it is minimized when truth, unselfishness and righteousness are the active motives

of your life; while, when falsehood, selfishness or wrong doing, even in minor things, the trouble is aggravated.

If you are selfish, the influences of all the selfish elements of your nature are awakened. If you are unselfish, all the unselfish elements in your nature become dominant.

If we continually announce that our God is the Creator of the universe, we must, in our actions, in an even greater degree, consider the well-being of every soul in the world, rather than our personal, or national well-being.

It is thru the unselfish aspects of our nature that the Spirit of God touches our being. Every unselfish motive, thot, feeling and action strengthens this union.

An unselfish attitude of mind, enables the soul and its powers to come into expression. A selfish attitude of mind opens the nature to the expression of the baser elements in thot, feeling and action.

Selfishness or unselfishness does not consist primarily in your working and planning for yourself or others. Selfishness is neglecting to do God's Will, unselfishness is the

doing of His Will. When you are doing His Will it is not selfishness to work only for yourself. Unselfishness does not necessarily consist in working for others, but that the aim in the work shall be for the benefit of the whole, rather than the part.

Every unselfish action opens the "gates" for the flow of the "fountain of youth" forces from within you. Every selfish action clogs the flow of the eternal energies thru you.

There are many levels of consciousness, intelligence and power. When your life is lived for the well-being of all beings in the universe, do you touch the highest sources. When you live for the well-being of your own race you enrich your own race. When you live for the well-being of the world, you enrich your own race in a higher degree, as well as benefit the world.

Look at folks thru unselfish eyes if you would see their best points.

TRUTH

Truth is not perceived merely by thinking. The divine heart in you is alone qualified to reflect the eternal truth. Telescopes and microscopes according to their adjustment and the cleanliness of their lens, can be useful in observing up to certain degrees. You can know the eternal truth only as you live the eternal life.

Spiritual power comes from the depth of your being. It is generated thru righteousness and unselfishness. In its flow it cleanses your soul, mind and emotions, healing and purifying the body.

Only as eternal truths inspire your being will eternal harmony pervade your nature.

A thot expressed in the heat of temper never assays one hundred per cent of truth.

True ideas are invaluable because every such idea becomes a channel thru which the "influence" of Truth expresses itself.

Eternal Truth is! Your desire, thot opinion cannot change it. Listen always! Truth is ever unfolding. It has an infinite number of aspects. Discard no idea wholly.

Accept no idea as final. Take your time, eternity is before you. Your opinion does not put the final stamp on Truth. It will keep until you catch up to it.

When you must speak the "truth" recall that there are two kinds, one which is of the past, and the other that may be of the future. Let your expressions, therefore, be constructive, for they create in yourself, as a seed, that which you think of another.

No man has ever told the whole truth. You cannot compress the infinite truth into a concrete expression.

TOLERANCE

Be eternally openminded and eternally tolerant if you would make progressive steps in the path of Truth. At a high enough altitude of thot, all the varying conceptions of man can be seen to be true, at the angle and in the degree that men view them. However, there is always a more comprehensive expression of Truth beyond!

If you possess the Truth, you can afford to be tolerant to those who do not possess it. The degree of tolerance usually indicates the degree of knowledge. The highest Truth the noblest human may attain to is but a partial expression of Truth.

The world does not need a new religion. It needs souls that are afire with the eternal truths taught in all religions. Put into operation your religious ideals and you will become united to the Soul seeking expression thru all beings.

Every statement has in it an element of Truth. It is a question if a human statement can have at any time one hundred per cent of

truth, unless the mind viewing it is one hundred per cent Truth.

Do we know, can we ever know, how much effort to do the right was made when the wrong was committed?

I find no record where it is stated that Jesus ceased being a Jew or ever requested any one to do so. Let his disciples do as their Master in this regard as in others.

As a child in learning to write with a pen makes many false moves and many blots perchance, so a soul in learning how to live, makes many an error which man calls sin. Sympathy and patience should be applied in the latter case, as it usually is in the former. The first is writing fluid, the second is the "ink" of life.

The world does not need a new revelation of wisdom and knowledge. It needs the continuous presentation in ever new ways of the old truths. Those who know the wisdom literature of the world realize that what is necessary is its application to daily life.

IDEALS

The ideas you let play in your mind always leave behind some token of their presence.

Impressions on your nature are creative, tending to reproduce themselves.

What the tongue gives forth is seed. Are yours "flowers," "vegetables" or "weeds"?

Ideas of patience, sympathy and reverence or any like qualities are the "sands" which, when held in the mind, become cemented together, resulting in the incorporation of that quality in your nature.

To be receptive to the good, the true and the beautiful, to seek to observe it in all things and all beings, to aim to express it in every activity of our nature—that is true living.

The intensification of your ideals raises the tone of your nature. Every prayer you read, every kindness you do, every unselfish feeling that animates you, attunes your nature to the Divine Nature.

To attain an ideal, keep the ideal in the mind and do the thing that duty brings to hand every moment.

No ideal is beyond us if we will but chisel away the obstructions in our lower nature.

The problem of living up to your ideals is solved by being continuously under their influence.

The ideal life is to mind one's own business, holding, however, a universal viewpoint of life's relations.

If each day were lived as though it were the last, our lives would last longer.

Watch your thots. Your actions will not be greater than what you think about. Be heroic in thot, and in time opportunities will be presented when you can be heroic in action.

Our ideals are the power that carry us forward, but are always ahead of us.

We like folks in the degree in which some of the elements in their nature blend with ours. By our trying to perceive the ideal that is in process of unfoldment in every soul, we will, in time, find something we can correlate with in every one.

Every one you know becomes imprinted on your soul. It is, therefore, well to know the "ideal man" in every one.

The thots you think and express are the steps by which you travel to your ideals.

Our ideals may be as far from realization as the stars are from the earth, still we are somewhat better because we have ideals.

Nature is forever painting upon the canvas of mind that which is to be. However, you have the privilege of furnishing the "paint."

We are all saviors of each other thru the "Power of God."

Man's ability to resist the influence of circumstance is in proportion to the strength of the ideal within him.

While you may not retain ideas, still if you have once harbored them, they give direction to your life.

LIFE

Life is a process of finding our divine relations.

Life is one problem after another, an adventure in ever new fields.

Life is a process of digging ever deeper into the consciousness of God.

Life is a process of overcoming shortcomings.

Every difficulty is a challenge as well as an opportunity for the birth of new power.

You cannot alter the past. You can, however, determine how you will permit the past to affect you. Every experience is worth its weight in wisdom.

Life is a process of wrestling with one nuisance after the other.

Life is a game of action and refreshment. To play it long the right proportions must be maintained.

We are at least a thot in the Divine Mind while living. We can never be less than

a memory, though dead. God's thots and memories are eternally alive.

When life is travelled on the road of affection it leads to the port of Bliss.

To obtain eternal life you must mortgage your being to the Lord for eternity.

The "spirit of life" comes into expression thru the "sweat of the brow."

Life is one experiment after the other. A man's actions will be unconsciously influenced by his past experience, by the influence of example in his environment, as well as the influence of ideas of a quality akin to his nature and in the degree of his intelligence.

A moral life is one that is lived constructively from the plane of self. A religious life is one that is lived constructively from the plane of God.

Eternal life is yours when you are living it.

The Divine Consciousness, the "I" in you, is indestructible. It is, however, in action, subject to expansion thru righteousness and contraction thru unrighteousness, but its extinction is impossible.

Health

PROGRESS

The varied lessons of life can be learned under the present system of things. No real progress will be made, regardless of the system, unless these lessons are learned. The degree of character and knowledge gained can be applied under any system. Only a higher degree of quality in each individual's life and work will make for a progressive change in this or any system.

Progress in the mass is dependent upon individual progress. Individual progress is practically independent of mass progress, or of particular systems of government, religion or education.

Truths that are preserved in books are like canned fruit, good, but not as fine as the fresh article. The true life will be productive of new truths.

As you travel forward, you find mental and spiritual lights beckoning you onward. As you travel downward, the next step below shows its alluring face.

Every act eventually is a stepping stone

to a better act with a purer motive and guided by a finer spirit of intelligence.

The thots you think indicate the path you will travel along.

Think that only good in one form or another is constantly coming to you, and it will.

Each kindness that you do brings you into the consciousness of Spirit in a greater degree.

Your will-power grows only thru righteous use.

Ideas seem to be linked in a chain. Each time you express one, it pulls another into your consciousness.

Cleanliness of body may not mean cleanliness of mind or soul, but may be the first step in that direction.

It is not enough that the Sun shone yesterday; it must shine again today if it is to gladden our hearts. It is not enough that we were good, kind, thoughtful and unselfish yesterday; these qualities adorned and made yesterday beautiful, but they must shine anew today if beauty is to reign in our lives today.

This world is but a training school, where we are apprenticed for life, to be whipped into shape by the fires of experience, for a definite task in the workshop of Nature.

Each one of us is flowering in one or another aspect of our nature.

To be consistent while you are imperfect is no virtue. To be consistently inconsistent is a virtue, as it shows progress.

Every heroic act is the inspiration and challenge for a greater deed.

The "tree of life" is the "divine spark" growing into spiritual manhood.

You unfold your divine nature by expressing God's ideas in your thoughts and actions.

True progress can best be made under free institutions. Every form of government, however, has something to commend it. The enlightened soul can extract elements of progress out of every condition. The unenlightened soul gets its discipline out of every form of government.

True progress is made as much by deep-

ening your thot of conditions as by a change in them.

Every expression of life whose motive comes from the lower self, retards real progress. Every expression, whose motive is from the Higher Self, makes for permanent development—strengthening of character.

Sincerity is the door which opens the soul, both for the absorption of the divine influences and for their expression.

When one absorbs idealistic thot, there is a definite, though unconscious influence, strengthening righteous decisions, purifying choices in selection of friends, in determining enjoyments and conforming the life generally to the eternal standards.

The sincere aspirant after the wisdom of God will find the elements of good in every religion, philosophy, science or cult, and where they all agree, accept that as good theory. A thing is not verified as to truth until you prove it for yourself. Even then it is continually subject to new interpretations with your growth in knowledge, intelligence and wisdom.

The world is imperfect because the varied inhabitants are in different stages of development. This fact is one of the influences making for growth toward perfection of the individual units.

Man must make progress. To live means to express beyond your present bounds. Man goes forward, even though he goes downward, because it is onward. Most people "don't know where they are going, but are on their way." An army shooting bullets on that principle might capture a victory once in a million years! Success will be yours if you get an objective, and then point all your energies toward it.

No soul in the universe is lost. Many are pursuing paths that are spiritually unprofitable, and in that sense they are lost, that is, have lost their trail to God. Every experience, regardless of its nature, can be transmuted by the Divine Nature, and in the process made to yield elements of progress.

The development of the soul's senses is stimulated by observing the soul qualities in those about you. As you come into awareness of the soul and its powers you find that enjoy-

ment is not in places or in things, but is found by being in a state of constructive relations with all things and beings.

I believe that in the infinite past I have been at every degree of ignorance and savagery and that my present and future will be an endeavor to get further away from my past.

Our virtues are our reactions, brot into being, to subject our vices, or else be dominated by them.

You are only living when you are better each day.

We all do things that are to be avoided, and often continue to do them, simply because of a lack of the right combination of thot appeal in regard to them.

We think one thing, but act according to our nature. However, our thinking **gradually** transmutes our nature.

There was a time when we went walking for exercise. Now we exercise our autos instead. Result—improvement of autos!

OTHERS

Our life is bound up with the lives of every member of the race. Our actions be they noble or ignoble reflect upon the rest of mankind. The inspiration of God in any one benefits the rest of us directly and indirectly.

Every soul has a dividend of gladness for you if you present the coupon of good-will.

Each soul in the world is God's personal ambassador. Let us treat each other as such and await the delivery of the divine message each of us has within.

Every person you meet has a golden gem for your "crown of truth." It needs the friendly touch of souls to effect delivery.

You can always find a facet in another corresponding to your thot of him.

We are all of us unconscious teachers to all who come into contact with us, by what we think, say and do.

Each moment you are impressing your characteristics upon all natures.

By wearing flowers, you share with others their beauty of form, color, and fragrance. They leave an impression on the minds of all who behold them, moulding them somewhat toward the beautiful.

What you see in others is not what they are, but what is at the level of the mood animating you at the time.

The good in you is re-inforcing the good in others. The reverse is also true.

Your speech is the ink with which you write your thots upon the hearts of others.

A genial greeting unbuttons the overcoat of personality, touching the soul, bringing forth its music of smiles, laughter and cheer.

No one ever has a right to get angry at another. We only think we have. Anger brings to light during the cooling process reasons which if one had thot of them would have prevented it.

If you have a temper, it can be controlled thru soul development, by enlarging of the understanding, unfolding of the sympathetic nature and by the development of forbearance, brotherliness and love.

HASTE

When you hurry in eating, talking, walking, working or other activities, you take the element of art out of them.

You wring your own neck in making haste. The Bible says, "He that hasteth with his feet sinneth." Nature will not be hurried. As you get out of tune with Nature you cut off a degree of life and power that would otherwise circulate thru you.

When a man hurries he thinks he is making progress. He is, in fact, going backward. Quality is the one thing that endures, and that determines real advancement. Haste deteriorates the organism, by thwarting the divine expression. It was Emerson who said, "A gentleman never hurries, a lady is always serene."

Perfection is not wrought in a day. A change of government can never bring in the millennium. Flower, plant or tree seeds cannot attain their several perfections, planted in the same soils and at the same levels. The conditions you are in, hold the hardships need-

ful for your growth. Fulfill their demands and greater handicaps await you. The bliss of life is alloyed with the hardships of encounter.

If you kill time, time will kill you. Use time well and time will use you well.

The forces of nature go along in an orderly manner. The stream of ideas, the flow of soul forces have their appointed course. When we hurry, we put ourselves out of tune with them.

HEALTH

The processes of nature are slow, whether it is building up or breaking down. Observing the aspects of health, of the body, mind or soul, of those you touch, is a means of strengthening your being, by reinforcing your nature. Observing and speaking about sub-normal states of health, creates these states in memory, gradually undermining your powers of resistance.

Virtue manifests as soul, mental and physical health. Enough virtue, and you have health of soul, mind and body.

All diseases are fundamentally caused by being out of tune, out of harmony with the Principle of Being. Therein is the cure for all ills, for if God pervaded your nature in fullness, your body, mind, soul and spirit would be in Harmony.

Health is largely a matter of being dominated by constructive ideas.

Only as God is at the core of your being, can there be health in the body of it.

A right use of all powers, and the tongue, makes for health and beauty.

Your ideas have a direct bearing upon your health. True ideas give forth harmonious radiations.

A few minutes of daily religious culture pays the highest dividends in health, contentment, peace, character and success. Try it and be convinced.

Every righteous action is an influence for health. Every wrong action is an influence for disease. Either state is the accumulated influences of your life.

When God's influence permeates your being, the germs of disease find no welcome in your nature.

The polishing of the facet of mercy on your soul is an influence for health.

If every expression of your personality was in harmony with the laws of Nature, health would be a permanent state in your life. When health is not permanent, the trouble is usually with the soul, mind and body, rather than with the weather, or drafts, or what you eat.

When you have a brotherhood feeling toward all mankind, you are organizing a unified feeling among the cells of your being.

The soul is fed, not so much by what you take into your being as by what you express.

The beautiful in thought, feeling and action gives a strengthening influence to your personality, while the base weakens it.

Harmonious influences acting upon you from without attune your nature so that the soul-forces within can more readily express thru you.

Every expression of your human nature, that is not in accord with the Divine Nature, ages you. Every expression of the divine thru you, strengthens, refreshes and makes for continued youthfulness.

In the degree in which your life is obedient to the impulse of God in your soul will your nature manifest the influence of health, wholesomeness and beauty.

As peace and poise pervade your being, will recuperation and regeneration attain its highest efficiency. Truth, righteousness, hon-

esty, frankness and every fine soul quality make for permanent peace and poise in your life. Dishonesty, immorality and every type of demoralizing influence make for that "ragged edge" in your character and organism.

There is a direct relationship between the state of your soul and the state of your health. Let the Divine inspire your life and its quality will attune the physical organism to its highest efficiency. If base motives inspire your conduct, your physical organism will operate less efficiently. The first leads to an ever greater enjoyment of health, the second to an ever weaker state of vitality.

Eat to enjoy health.

If you pay your appetite more than it earns it is apt to lie down on the job.

The degree of pleasure in eating is the degree of enthusiasm of the organs of digestion in transforming it. Thoroly masticate every morsel to extract all the enjoyment it contains.

The degree in which the Spirit of God is in your soul will be the degree of vitality of all the forces animating you.

Eternal righteousness creates health at the foundation of your being. Constant application of the principle brings it into realization in the personality.

Health should mean an ever greater increase of physical vitality, mental growth and spiritual unfoldment. Rosy cheeks, the offspring of health, are refreshing to the eye and a stimulus generally. What is so rare, as this natural color, unless it be the health of which it is an index.

Whatever is in the heart and mind will be reflected in the body. Good qualities and wholesome ideas manifest as health, their opposites, as disease.

The thought, feeling and expression of gratitude is a strengthening influence to your nature. Ingratitude will make inroads on your health.

There must be an out-go to have an income of spiritual, soul, mental and bodily energies. Use is the law of life and growth.

The force of your ideas saturates your physical nature with their qualities.

Health is the result of energy producing habits. Sickness comes thru inroads on your mind, soul and bodily vitality.

When the soul is filled with love and expresses the divine qualities, and when the mind is filled with wholesome ideas, the body will in time glow with an ever greater degree of health.

The ideas expressed in scandal and gossip create a channel for further influence of as base a nature. This influence will in time undermine your nature. A house will not be sanitary when an open sewer runs under it. Likewise, your nature will not be sound when the filth of soul and mind flows thru it.

There are some persons so constituted by habit, that if something untoward happens, or is said, their natures are sure to be aware of it. Others are always on the alert for the kind, cheerful, noble expressions and actions. Each attracts according to the degree of like qualities in themselves.

If you possess the highest degree of health and wholesomeness, paint and powder are superfluous. To use them merely accentuates their absence.

The "glow of health" cannot be wooed by external applications, but may be won by internal and eternal self-expression.

Health is always within the Soul. In the degree in which the Divine Nature dominates the mind and body will harmony pervade your being. When the Divine Element within you touches the soul influences in all with whom it comes into contact will health be perfect and permanent.

Wholesouled and generous actions leave beneficial influences upon the soul, mind and bodily organisms.

Happiness

WISDOM

Body, emotions, mind and soul are steps of Divine Thought leading towards self-realization.

Every noble idea expressed from the soul is a life giving influence. Gossip saps one's energy.

The fire of suffering can only be put out by the waters of wisdom.

Wisdom can be found upon every side of every question, looked at from the standpoint of time and eternity.

All wisdom, strength and power belong to God, and must be used according to His Will to gain increase. When earned, it is yours to spend in any way you choose. Are you re-investing your energies of body, mind and soul with Him, thereby gaining the highest dividends with absolute security?

Every vice has some immediate virtue in it, and in its reaction it may bring forth knowledge, wisdom and self-control.

Man is a spiritual being, diving in a ma-

terial ocean for pearls of wisdom. With the lamp of Truth in his heart, the gems he finds will enrich his life here and hereafter.

All power of the universe is at your service when you have attained unto wisdom so as to use it in perfect co-operation with His Will.

Mistakes are the seed holes for grains of wisdom.

Lord, Thou hidest Thyself in the beauty of every flower, in the light of every star, in the joy of every countenance, in the song of every bird, in the harmony emanating from every creature.

Ugliness is the development of the divine qualities in disproportion. Ugliness of body is often a necessary condition to bring the soul to birth.

Individuality is the real you, a facet of God. Personality is the instrument, body, mind, soul, that the Individuality uses.

Each of us is a combination of roses and thorns. Choose which you will have from us by your discriminating touch of our person.

Inspiration floats on the spirit of thankfulness.

The "spirit of life" writes our actions upon the "walls of time."

The "water of life" is not a mere poetic expression, but is a delightful reality.

No matter how good we are, or how bad we are, we are all just divine.

Acknowledging God by fulfilling His Will causes Him to acknowledge you by ensouling you with His Power, Wisdom and Peace.

To have wisdom in your heart you must obey its mandates in your life.

If you hate to do a thing, and must do it, it is harder to do it. Therefore, always find some pleasant aspect of the task and thereby ease your labors.

The man who knows he knows nothing, is wise,—he knows Something.

FRIENDSHIP

If your life is lived in partnership with God, in time you will be a friend to all beings, nations and races. The Bible says of those who do God's will, "He maketh their enemies to be at peace with them." Races and nations can transform the prejudices against them, by doing God's will. Prejudices and antagonisms can be interpreted in the light of disciplinary measures needful for purging the soul of a people.

The Soul of you knows! Think well, speak well, feel good towards another, and in the greetings at a later date, it will be unconsciously acknowledged by additional warmth of handclasp, or by the ring in the tone or by the sweetness in the smile. Coolness, distance and the general feeling of a barrier will be felt if unkindness towards another has been expressed.

Friendship is attained and maintained when unselfishness is active in your relationships.

What sweeter breath of refreshment than

the wholesouled exclamation of friendship's greeting!

Be good and you will be lonely is true only of that goodness that is not genuine.

He who demonstrates by his actions the truth he would teach me is my friend.

To see the good in others re-inforces it in their natures and in your own, and at the same time gives the pleasure that comes from the contemplation of harmony and beauty.

Silence at the little hurts in life makes for quicker recuperation, as well as for enrichment of character and increase of friendships.

Affection, sympathy, friendship and love have a preservative effect on your nature. Their opposites have a corroding effect.

The "sunlight of your smile" dropped into a gloomy heart may be the ray that bursts it into bloom.

Your genuine interest in others is an investment that yields dividends of friendship.

Friendship, affection, sympathy and kin-

dred qualities have a healing effect because they put the individual upon a higher plane of consciousness, bringing more of the Creative Mind into expression.

Every friend you make adds health, strength and well-being to your nature.

Think of the ideal in the souls you meet, and you will find that your expressions toward them are of a higher order than usual. This attitude cultivates the spirit of friendship. A real friend is one who sees the eternal possibilities in a soul, regardless of its present condition or circumstance.

To endeavor always to see the good qualities in others makes for friendships. No man can long be your enemy when you think of him as a child of God, and speak and act toward him accordingly.

In eternity we shall all be friends. Let us hasten the day by an application of the principles of friendship now. One good turn deserves and in time gets another—at least from the Divine Source.

LOVE

Every feeling of love, every expression of affection or sympathy, is a stitch sewing you to the invisible spiritual soul of humanity.

Love is the contact of another soul from its universal aspect. At that point no "personal" qualities dominate.

With true love as a re-enforcement all adverse qualities are impotent.

The good-will, love, gratitude and friendship of others toward you act like rays of sunshine upon your soul.

It is not the amount of possessions one has, but the amount of heart, that determines the joy one gets in life.

Love is the rightful captain of man's ship and when in command directs to the harbor of safety and happiness. When the mates, intellect and passion, assume command, the ship is gradually, though unconsciously directed toward "Misery Islands."

Every one is really wonderful. A lover catches that divine glimpse of his loved one,

and in the degree of its indelbleness will he continue in love. True love enables one to have a constructive attitude in motives, thots, feelings and actions toward others.

If you hate a person, you image him in thot, and the energies of thot and feeling are drawn from their normal course and manufactured into hate force. Hate is a dark cloud upon your nature and it shuts out the sunlight of Spirit from yourself. To love the good in everyone is wisdom, as it enriches every department of your being.

Love is the flower of life. It springs up in the heart of man, when warmed by the spirit of devotion, appreciation and service.

What rapture in a kiss that is the fruit of love, what joy in one the offspring of affection.

Only as the Divine Spirit animates you do you see and feel the divine qualities in others.

OBEDIENCE

Continuous obedience to God brings man every blessing at its appointed time.

When you fulfill God's Will in your life, you are indirectly benefiting every being in creation.

You can know that you are immortal by living in constant obedience to God. When your thots, feelings and actions are of the eternal quality, you unfold the aspect of Eternal Consciousness.

Join the army of the Lord and your worries will migrate to a sunnier clime.

Everywhere and every day holds some good thing for me. By working for the Great Pay Master, it will be figured in my compensation.

APPRECIATION

By observing the good qualities in others you climb up the ladder of esteem, good-will and friendship in the community.

The habit of appreciating everyone and everything at its divine worth, and the habit of constructively reacting to everyone and everything, are among the most valuable habits in life.

Everyone of us benefits all of mankind. Those who go the way of destruction pile up evidence for the rest of humanity, so that common sense leads us in the path of safety.

Express thankfulness to God for the misfortunes that come to you and He will interpret them to you in the light of blessings.

To see the beautiful in another, stimulates it in them; in case of an outburst of temper, helps to calm, of despondency or sorrow, to lighten it. It works on the same principle as "a soft answer turneth away wrath." It is always a great influence making for co-operation.

When we find something admirable about some one, it is as difficult to refrain from showing it, as it is, when we find something we dislike in them. The observation of the best in others is a habit that can be cultivated by simply always trying to find it.

One who has a dominantly thankful spirit extracts nourishment from every experience and readily reacts to every circumstance.

Every kind of weather has its special type of enjoyment and virtue. Recall this fact when you do not like the weather—then start on a hunt for the joy and virtue in it.

Every one is beautiful within. Be a sun to their virtues by the light of that you put upon them. It will make for health, friends and ever greater success.

To think is to create. The degree of power in you is the degree of its expression thru you. The evils of the past are only aggravated by your thought of them in you or in others. Think rather of the good that is to be in the future.

HAPPINESS

If the Spirit of God was the soul of every act, you would be in perfect health and you would be continuously in the spirit of happiness.

The price of happiness is minding your own business.

We are always on the road to happiness, but we never arrive.

In happiness there is no chance. He who does right every day will feel right every day. He who does right now and again will feel happy now and again.

The happiness you manifest causes similar expressions from others.

Discover some happiness today, then tomorrow you will be a better explorer in the mine of bliss.

The path of right doing is the paved road to the City of Happiness.

The spirit of happiness flows down the lane called optimism.

All sins are efforts at happiness, but are

misses when viewed from the eternal fitness of things.

The secret of happiness is to live your life with an open heart and mind and all your actions performed as service to God and man.

Are your actions the notes that compose the song "Happiness?"

One learns to be happy by trying to be happier.

What melody is to music, happiness is to life. It requires art in music to produce melody, so likewise it requires art in the "science of life" to make happiness constant.

Dig out the golden truths of your religion and follow them. They will give you a true appreciation of the values in life. Happiness is the inevitable result of unconscious obedience to them.

One of the secrets of a happy life is to admire something about everything and in every one.

If you would be happy let God dispose of your time.

Happy memories are our most eternal

possession and give the most joy, both here and hereafter.

Let God have a mortgage on your heart if you would have a happy state of mind.

It's the little sacrifices that give the great dividends of joy.

All experiences in life are investments for future happiness. It is necessary, however, to have them cashed at the Bank of Knowledge.

Humanity are the laborers in the Universal Civilization that is being builded. The Architect has his plans complete. We best further those plans and our welfare by conscious co-operation. The plans will be finished despite our failure to co-operate, but the part we play will not be as pleasant.

To seek the beautiful in every human flower is the surest highway to happiness.

Were God the animating power in your body, mind and soul, you would find a joy in every good person's presence, and confer it on every person you met.

Unhappiness is not the result of conditions, but of their interpretation.

We are descended from God. Infinite power is the urge back of us. Infinite manifestation is in front of us. Happiness comes thru constructive relations, directly or indirectly with an ever larger grouping of this manifestation.

Be good and you will be happier. Happier in the possession of a bit more of the Eternal Spirit, a bit finer quality of mind and character, a bit greater capacity for real friendship.

To be happy the mind and soul must have their roots in the soil of truth.

When you permit the Divine Spirit, as Artist, to play upon your body, mind and soul, health and happiness will be your reward.

Every act of a brotherly nature enriches your heart. Every selfish action enlarges your material nature. The former adds enjoyment to your relations with every one. The latter detracts from your ability to express yourself.

Every idea that becomes a part of you or that you habitually harbor, seeks to surround itself with kindred ideas. Every success idea added to what you have makes just a little bit more of success possible. Every wholesome idea makes obedience to the laws of health more probable. Every idea and observation of happiness moulds your nature toward it.

We are made to be happy, but must tread in the path of the seed-actions of the past.

Being happy is your greatest contribution to the world. Happy people are the real philanthropists.

One of the reasons the birds are so happy is that they do not read the daily papers.

Happiness is a matter of playing tag with the good side of every situation or personality you touch.

In the last analysis no one can make another permanently happy. Happiness is the spirit of life bubbling up in the heart. Its overflow thru your being brings that delightful reaction. Outside influences can stimulate now and again, but the habit of allowing the Divine Nature to express thru your being is

what makes this a permanent state in your life. When this has become established, you can be happy anywhere, you are happy all the time, and you become one of those that make other people happy when you meet them.

True marriage is the union of the spirit of God in two human hearts, minds and bodies.

Happiness comes from the Spirit of the Lord abiding within you, from the flower of love growing in your heart, and from the dominance of duty in your life.

Be moderate in all things if you would be happy at all times.

A bird does not lay its eggs until the nest is complete to protect them. The Divine Spirit does not live in a soul until its qualities are such as will thereafter harbor it.

Every observation of the virtuous elements in any being is a moral reinforcement in their life. It definitely helps forward God's government of the universe.

Just as precious stones are to be found in the depth of the earth, so joy, gladness, and the precious elements whose rays are virtues, are to be found in the depth of the soul.

SUCCESS

Every wrong you do is a step toward poverty of spirit, soul, mind, emotions and body, and thru them of material things. Every right action is a step toward wealth of spirit, soul, mind, body and thru them of material things.

Your greatest contribution to the world is to become better than you are. Your actions are of less force in the world than the effect of your unfolded nature.

Only when the mind responds to wisdom, the soul to beauty and the heart to love can one be said to have an education.

Most performances are failures when viewed in the light of possible achievement, but successes when compared to past accomplishments.

You are not rich until you have "Self-possession," no matter how many possessions you call your own.

Genius is inspiration, consecration and "perspiration."

No man can do the best work he is capable

of doing without heartily endeavoring to co-operate with God!

Man comes into Self-realization only when atonement with God is achieved.

The true foundation stone for character building is the "Spirit of the Lord." Until that is "laid" within you, the divine manhood cannot be builded.

Make no excuses. Convert that energy into fulfilling your duties, and in time your work will be beyond the apologetic stage.

Concentration is easy when your life is obedient to a divine impulse. The secret of success is to allow the divine purpose to become realized thru you.

Regardless of what happens, "the best is yet to be," is the slogan of successful souls.

Every virtuous action advances you, though seeming failure confronts you. Every vicious action, though seemingly successful, is a step in the direction of failure.

Religion

FORGIVENESS

We should continually forgive. Each real forgiveness towards any one unfolds the nature, so that the Divine Light ensouls you to a greater degree. Each ill feeling you harbor against another closes your nature to the holy influences of the Spirit. It is always spiritually profitable to forgive.

When we ask for forgiveness, it is never denied, but is conditioned on our "making a note," payable on demand, for a like amount, toward all the children of men.

We would not condemn a man for the mistakes he makes in trying to do right. We should not condemn him at any time for doing the thing he does, as his life is an experiment and the fruit of every action will at last convince of its value.

Memory is nature's divinest blessing, if good, and its most hellish curse, if not. The thinker, contemplating the causes of ill, in time, looks with tolerance on his own actions and then with compassion on the misdeeds of others.

HUMILITY

We are on an equality with all men in most things. Perhaps in one department alone are we each superior to any other.

We become aware of our shortcomings after they have been revealed by some neglect on our part. Keeping active the spirit of mercy, and observing the admirable qualities of those about us will reduce these revelations to a minimum. We are made to feel our shortcomings when we observe the imperfections of others.

An humble attitude of mind draws wisdom and knowledge into it upon the principle that nature abhors a vacuum.

Humility is the door thru which God enters the soul.

As you bend down to those in more humble stations, your spirits rise.

At the bar of conscience every man is a pigmy.

Your capacity to receive the religious influence at places of worship is in proportion to your righteousness, unselfishness and hu-

mility.

When you think you are wise you are usually otherwise.

Divine humility must be a facet of your nature if Divine Wisdom is to abide permanently in your soul.

The constant recognition that God is always the source of life, wisdom and power, in every performance of ours, will keep us in that humble state of mind, which will enable us to do ever greater service in co-operation with the divine plan for humanity.

We are good, not because we are of a better grade than anyone else, but by the Goodness of God we are given knowledge, wisdom and power to master the adverse conditions of life.

Only God is Great. When we fulfill His Will, we are permitted to bask in the influence of His Greatness.

Man shines by reflected light. Humility and righteousness keep his credit good with the Great Banker.

As a branch cannot bring forth fruit unless

united to the trunk, so man can only unfold in all his perfection when his soul is bound to God. Wholesouled prayer strengthens this bond of union.

What is weakness but a degree of strength placed in a higher degree of adverse circumstance. What is strength but a degree of power placed in relation to a lower degree.

ATONEMENT WITH GOD

Ascend in motives, thots, feelings and actions to universal altitudes and you put into operation forces that will gradually overthrow the phenomena of old age, decrepitude, ugliness, deformity, and vice, in fact, every undesirable weakness or attribute of your being.

As man is animated by the Spirit of God will he grow stronger, purer, broader, deeper, more refined and more enlightened. Such a man will live more in the open, will see and feel the sunshine, flowers, trees, birds and the landscape. This deeper insight increases the joy of every happy event and diminishes the sorrows of every adverse incident.

In order to keep in union with the Divine Spirit, you must feel Him as the source of all life, and must think and act for the general well-being of all lives, even though you work for the advancement of your family, your race, your religion and your nation.

There is no joy like the joy of "being good" when you can attain it. "Being good" is achieved when the spirit of God is expressing thru your being,—has rented enlarged per-

manent quarters in your nature. This gives you a higher degree of lasting happiness and adds continually beauty, warmth and life to your being.

When God inspires your life every little movement has a wisdom of its own.

The one element every being has in common is the God element. If you realize an aspect of it in your life you have a touchstone of happiness.

The joy of sympathetic appreciation of the fine qualities and elements in things and folks about you beats pleasure a mile! The Spirit of God within you animates your higher nature. It is well worth wooing.

A man can take a course in the school of Hard Knocks, and not get a diploma of wisdom. However, with the Spirit of God as teacher, he is sure to get some promotion in well-being.

Assurances of immortality come to you when your life is lived in daily obedience to God's Will; when you consider in all your actions the well-being of all beings; when you consecrate your life to help reunite all lives in the universe with God.

The unconscious search after God is one of the dominant impulses in every human soul. Every realization of Him, whether in Nature, in Art, in Science, or in some loved one, makes for the growth of Him in you. When His Spirit is consciously alive within you, every being you touch draws out an aspect of His Nature, every event is interpreted to you in terms of constructive thot.

The last name of every being is God.

Every good musician tunes his instrument each time he plays upon it. God would have us, thru prayer, permit Him to daily attune our beings for His service.

HEAVEN

Heaven is not a place so much as it is an altitude of thot, feeling, action and vision.

You can be in heaven, here and now, if your life is lived in inspiration from the eternal source, and you touch the divine elements in all with whom you come into contact.

Seeing the best in others, thinking generously of them, doing kindnesses when possible, praying, living nobly, being just, merciful and humble, have one purpose—to awaken the Eternal Flame in our hearts, and thru these activities, to keep it alive.

You can realize heaven each day by rising in consciousness to universal altitudes in motives, thots, feelings and actions.

If you do not find heaven here, you are not apt to find it elsewhere. Your ability to constructively interpret conditions is the first step to the mastery of them. Making heaven out of any set of circumstances here will insure you of heaven hereafter. The quality of man you are determines the per cent of heaven

you are having or will have. The hundred per cent man is in heaven at all times.

There is no such place as one hundred per cent "hell," for God is there. There is no such place as one hundred per cent "heaven," because those in "hell" are not there. Those worthy of "heaven" will be in touch with the good elements of every being in "hell."

All of us are going to heaven. Most of us get our directions by going to "hell."

RELIGIOUS THOTS

The religious influence is a power and it protects you especially under adverse conditions.

The highest duty of a religious person is not to convert others to his way of thinking about things religious, but by the quality of his life to inspire them to holier living.

Being religious does not mean that you are good, but that you want to be. The best means of transforming your nature is thru religion.

You can be moral and do what is right without being religious. If, however, you are also truly religious, the added influence that ensouls you, and the added effectiveness of your life will be as the difference between a Private and a General in the Army of the Lord.

You say, "I do not need religion, I do what I think is right." But does your conception of right measure up to what God knows is your capacity for righteousness? The added reinforcement of your nature with His Spirit, and the increased accuracy in marks-

manship of your efforts would bring you a larger return of joy and gladness as well as greater usefulness and satisfaction.

Upon the acceptance and maintenance of a soul insurance policy in any of the great religious organizations, there is a standing guarantee that the mortgages of Sin, Sickness, Worry & Co. will gradually be cleared.

Truly religious folks are the happiest. They are in touch with the best in every being and appreciate the good in everything. They are the most serene under adversity and wear the best thru all phases of life.

The lack of religious enthusiasm in this age argues a lack of understanding of religious values.

The object of all religions is to bring souls to God. It matters not if the avenue be Judaism, Christianity, Christian Science, or any other religion, philosophy or cult, so long as they make God's acquaintance. After that He will lead them into all Truth.

Every one who drinks of the fountain of religious inspiration carries with him a re-

serve of moral force that acts helpfully upon all.

Every religion is a bead on the necklace of Truth.

The Golden Rule is a perfect rule of life, but the dynamic power to put it into practice, lies in the Divine Spirit, a stream of which flows thru the heart of every religion.

What perfume is to a flower the religious influence is to the soul of man.

Where there is no light there will be darkness; no heat, cold; so likewise, where there is not a positive religious spirit, there will grow an ever greater degree of the materialistic spirit.

The "Divine Spark" is coming to birth in the cradle of the human body, amidst the passions and animal nature, in every human being.

The true function of a church is to make itself ever less of a necessity in the life of an individual, but how few individuals attain God-consciousness, so they can forever do without it.

The dynamic element in religion is to be

found in the music,—the chanting and singing. The expression of holy ideals with feeling, creates a condition of mind and soul that makes for warmth of ideals, leading to actualization.

When God has acknowledged you as His Son, giving you the "citizenship papers" to the "Country of the Universe," you can afford to do without religion.

Religion is the oasis in this desert of human trials and experience.

The bridge of purified human souls is the means thru which the Divine Power comes into the life of man on the earth plane. Each of the great religions has a "specialized extract" of this power in trust for its members. Your inherited organism is attuned to receive this power. Keep close to your own "fount of life." Intermarriage is regrettable because of the natural inability of both natures to absorb the same religious power. The pain, suffering and hardship attending it here will also have to be repeated when the souls leave the earth plane.

You cannot sew with a needle unless it is threaded. Likewise, you cannot demonstrate

the principles of religion unless the Principle is in your heart.

Each religion is intended to be different, for each one has a different purpose. At universal altitudes, for all practical purposes, however, they are the same. The life—the soul principle of each religion is designed in its character to meet the growing needs of the souls in its harbor.

Words are symbols representing ideas to the mind, influences to the soul and principles to the character. Constant and exclusive reading of the prayers and religious literature of a people, brings into dominance and ever greater realization the ideas, influences and principles active in the life purpose of that group. The basic religious influences do not mix. Those who are wise will take spiritual nutriment only from one religious source.

The religious principle is the highest grade of "life" thus far vouchsafed to humanity. If active within you, your character, your ideas, emotions, tones, and even your hand clasp may be a means of conveying it to others.

Religious influence is to the soul and mind, what water is to the body or earth.

When the light of religion diminishes, the cobwebs of illusion creep in.

It is easy to be religious, while under the religious influence and among religious people. You are in a higher grade, if, when among irreligious people, you can still retain your religious poise. When, however, the religious culture becomes ingrained in you, so that you can be your best self, under all conditions of life, you are a graduate.

The religious life makes for a more normal scale of living. Everyone that takes a little stock in religion, finds that it pays dividends of health, contentment and happiness. A religious life is not necessarily the number of people you convert to your way of thinking, but the number you eventually convert to your way of acting.

It is good to study all religions. It is better to live according to all the teachings of one religion. Only as you live the teachings do you make more than just intellectual progress. When you are truly fulfilling all the teachings of one religion, you are in fact fulfilling all the universal teachings. The religious power, in its essential nature, is different

in each great religious organization. Each type is to be conserved, but we must emphasize the spirit of humanitarianism in all of them.

Attendance at religious services gradually enables you to breathe deeper mental and spiritual influences, until your daily life is lived on a more serene, peaceful, hopeful, joyous plane. Each divine impression registered in your consciousness, causes your mind and soul nature to manifest in ever finer strata of thot and feeling.

In the divine plan it is intended that you outgrow the religious group into which you were born. After having fulfilled its discipline, becoming thereby broader, deeper and with greater understanding, you become a part of an ever larger grouping of humanity and finally of the universe.

The universal religion among men will come when the majority of men live their religious teachings to the degree of kindness toward all. Only then will humanity be in the mood to accept the truths each religion has to contribute and to discard the chaff.

That form of religion is best that inspires

to holiest living. Any form of religion is good that makes for a better life. When the life continually expresses the "spirit of religion" no form is necessary.

The religious influence is the sunlight that brings virtuous seeds to fruition.

Life is the ultimate test of religion. However, we need religion to interpret life, to mould character; otherwise the standards of life become the ideal, instead of religious ideals becoming the standards of life.

The thot of the world's well-being in your life, touches higher strata of power and wisdom, than the thot of one's personal or even national well-being. Every one that lives a truly religious life is unconsciously enriching the whole world.

Moses, Jesus, Buddha, Zoroaster and Mohammed are presidents of the great religious school systems they founded while on earth. The great virtue is not in belonging to any one of them, but in becoming a graduate, to the end that every child of man shall have a knowledge of God.

Every religious group is a "heart center"

that pours forth a grade of spiritual life force thru its members into the community. This power purifies, regenerates, refreshens, and enlightens the minds and souls that come under its influence.

The observance of religious devotions and ceremonies in the home will cause its atmosphere to be charged with the vital influence that is the soul-life of your religion.

In every great religion there is enough of the divine teaching to enable one to live a perfect life. The religion you preach is the religion you live daily.

To go to a church, temple or synagogue daily or weekly is good. To read understandingly the words spoken by Moses and the prophets of all religions is better. To fulfill them in your daily life is best. The aim of all church-going is not for the sake of the church, but for the soul. The soul must become the shrine wherein dwells the living God, that all who come under its influence may be spiritually refreshed.

The longer the individual is steeped in the influence of religion, the more impregnable the nature when in conflict with the worldly

influences. The increase in the number of children that attend religious schools, and the lengthening of these periods, is the certain way of improving the race. A Community Chest fund for religious extension is the best way of reducing the needs of a Community Chest.

When you first get an appreciation of religion you become intensely loyal and enthusiastic about it. When you first get an appreciation of God you become a staunch supporter of every kind of religion. Later, you become a lover of all beings, and realize that life is the great religion, each life is a sacrament, and must be played upon so as to bring forth its Harmony.

It matters not under which spiritual flag you serve, if you are a good soldier in the army fighting for righteous ideals. There are good soldiers in every religious camp. A change of leadership will not necessarily make better soldiers. Only when an army proves its superiority in every way, can it with propriety ask that its discipline be adopted by the others.

PRAYERS

May the Spirit of God in our hearts enable us to feel it in every heart.

Lord, I am not wise, I do not know the path that is best for me to go. Guide me, teach me, lead me ever. Amen.

Consecrate us anew, O Heavenly Father, and teach us to understand that only as we co-operate in Thy plans in our life's work can we be happy and our labors endure. Point out to each of us clearly the pathway Thou in Thy wisdom wouldst have us tread. Be with us in all our efforts to serve Thee. May we in all our successes acknowledge Thee as our inspiration and guide, as only thru Thy power and wisdom are we enabled to succeed. May Thy blessings rest upon all mankind this day and evermore. Amen.

Lord, guide my footsteps ever in the path that leads to Thee. Amen.

I arise this day, O Lord, relying upon Thee for strength, guidance and support. Amen.

Oh Lord, I thank Thee for Thy ensouling presence. I know that I am not virtuous in my own right or thru the strength of my own soul. With Thee, I can successfully resist all the trials, temptations and hardships of life. Only as Thy Spirit ensouls my life in a greater degree than the force of circumstances, can I be a master of them. May I always fulfill Thy Will in helping, protecting and guiding all souls seeking to fulfill Thy purposes. Amen.

ON PRAYER

There is a value in silent reading of prayer. A greater value is to be found, however, in voiced prayer, accompanied with sincere devotion. .

Each prayer writes its influence upon the personality. However, it takes a lot of "ink" to transform one's nature.

What is prayer? It is both the recitation of beautiful and inspiring thots and tie doing of deeds. Thots held in the mind, in time express themselves in action. The performance of any action is a prayer to go further in the direction of that action.

Prayer weaves into your nature the Divine Spirit.

Each prayer recited or read is another sail driving your "ship" to the port of God.

Thru prayer you vivify the spiritual elements in your nature, quicken the mind, purify the emotions, and raise the tone of your physical being.

Prayer keys your nature so that God can play upon it.

Prayer, in effect, is like ironing. Its repetition in sincerity flattens out the kinks in your nature. Without sincerity, it is like an iron without heat—not of much account.

When we pray we open our nature, permitting a flow of spiritual power into our beings, gradually attuning them to the divine degree.

Prayer is a means of bringing us one step nearer and one step deeper into the “waters of life.”

The influence of prayer moulds the physical nature so that it responds to the Spirit.

As water cleanses a garment, so prayer cleanses a soul. It requires rubbing in the first case, and action in the last, to complete the work.

The effect of prayer upon your nature depends upon the mood animating you.

Prayer is a positive influence for health, because it brings the influence of wholesome

ideas into your mind and holy aspirations into your soul.

Prayer is invaluable in that it creates definite constructive movements in the mind and soul.

Prayer is not for God's benefit but for our own and also for all mankind. Sincerity and aspiration always bring spiritual blessings. Failure to pray is withholding a blessing to others in your power to give.

Disease, irritabilities and even operations increase as the religious forces decrease in your being. Prayer is the best means of generating religious force. These forces strengthen your nature, enabling it to gradually throw off every inharmonious condition.

Prayer and its continuous repetition is but a means to an end. That end is the union in consciousness with the good in all beings. Along with that will come the natural happy fulfillment of your life's purpose in co-operation with God.

The public reading of prayers is valuable in the degree in which the reader is ensouled with the Mystic Influence; otherwise it is apt

to be an exhibition of intellectual gymnastics. No reader can be threaded with this Mystic Influence whose life is not in tune with God and consciously fulfilling His Will.

Praying, when your nature is out of tune with the Divine within you, and also without a contact with the Religious Force in your religion, is very much like turning on a faucet for water, when the plumbing is out of repair.

God never punishes us for our sins but by them; nevertheless, if we sincerely seek His forgiveness, that sincerity touches His Nature, thereby strengthening our nature, enabling us to throw off the effects of our wrong doing.

If you work and pray for the well-being of all the world you get under that influence yourself.

Prayers being the expression of the soul and spirit, constant reading of them will unfold your nature.

The regularity of religious devotion, both individual and collective, has an enhanced value. Such regularity, betokening the earnestness of those engaged, always brings the active co-operation of mighty Spiritual Intel-

ligences, who will use these periods to "seed," "water" and "fertilize" the souls participating.

Prayer is the fundamental support of true life and civilization!

You extend the kingdom of God by hopeful thots, earnest prayers and acts of kindness.

You first think an idea, then you possess or know it, finally it acts thru you. Continually paint and sculpture the ideals of religion on your heart and mind, and in time you will naturally embody them in your life.

Reading prayers the first thing in the morning, and the last thing at night, will engrave their nature on your character.

The recitation of prayers attunes the body, mind and soul to the Divine Spirit. A prayer before any activity will put you in a higher mood in fulfilling it.

Every act of kindness, justice, mercy and love, in fact, every action the soul of which is unselfishness, is acknowledging God. Prayer in the home, or church is but the training school for the development of such fruits of character, as the above. The noblest of our race have found prayer a necessity all thru

life. We cannot feed our bodies with an inferior kind of food and expect them to maintain a high efficiency. We cannot expect that our life will show a higher quality than ordinary newspaper or magazine standards, unless we feed them with the best the race has produced. The bibles of the world contain everything needful for man's spiritual growth and read with discrimination, will beautify, strengthen, ennoble, refine and develop every soul to a higher degree.

The regular recitation of prayer makes for the deepening of the religious emotion in your nature and for the mastery of the technique of prayer. This mastery will, in time, enable one to play at will upon all the elements of Nature.

Your reading leaves waves of thot and feeling upon your mind and soul. Its quality in time becoming absorbed into your nature.

Regular prayer has the effect of keeping you aware of your duties to others at all times. It is a protecting influence, especially under surprising circumstances.

To read prayers or Psalms after some

wrong, re-attunes your nature to the Divine Nature.

Have you taken your spiritual bath this morning? Or do you, perchance, take it only once a year?

The custom of acknowledgment to God before each meal, and thankfulness after each meal, makes for sanity in eating and drinking.

I pray because of the inspiration it gives me, enabling me to be somewhat better than I have been and because it enables me to see more of the good in others.

The regular reading of prayer causes the ideas in prayer to crystalize in your nature.

If you keep your soul bathed in religious influence thru prayer you will not only be refreshed yourself, but you may become a refreshing influence upon others.

Religious reading forms a center of religious ideas in the mind. Religious ideas carry the religious influence. A mind filled with such ideas and such influences re-inforces the body and draws new life into the soul.

Every expression of the Divine thru you, attunes your nature so that it responds more readily to the divine nature, and enables your personality to express itself more artistically.

When the soul is united to the Lord, prayer is just as effective to generate power, as turning on an electric switch.

Repeating prayers before meals harmonizes your nature, bringing the soul into dominance. It makes for time rather than hurry in eating. It refreshes the soul nature, while the food satisfies the bodily nature.

Voicing a prayer before meals quickens the sense of taste, adding to the enjoyment of the meal. Prayer after a meal stimulates the vital forces aiding digestion.

The importance of reading the highest type of literature just before retiring cannot be overestimated. The mind is largely dominated thru the period of sleep by your last waking thots, hence the wisdom of prayer before retiring.

You express gratefulness to God by doing kindnesses to man.

Physical food and drink build up, keep in repair and refresh the physical nature. The holy influences of religion and the ethical and moral elements are food and drink to the soul and their absorption gives an ever keener delight and refreshment. The ancients who partook daily of spiritual refreshment were indeed wise and we can emulate them with profit.

The quality of your daily reading helps largely to determine the elevation at which you commune with your fellowman.

Daily religious devotions are as necessary for the spiritual-minded as one's meals, if one desires to be in the highest state of progressive well-being.

Regular prayers create a veil of influence protecting your nature from awareness of the temptations about you. This habit will cause your nature to function upon an ever higher plane.

SONS OF GOD

We are all sons of God, but most of us are still in the kindergarten grade of usefulness. Sonship is a life of independence, expressing the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient Individuality, constructively and appropriately toward every being in the universe.

To attain union with God, you must climb the ladder of self-sacrifice, the highest rung of which is self-effacement.

As it is necessary to have a doctor at the birth of a child, so it is even more necessary to have a Divine Teacher as the "divine child" comes to birth in every soul. The first birth is physical, the second is the "cosmic consciousness" manifesting thru a cosmic elemental body, called the Divine Soul.

Man cannot be in divine relations with God without being in divine relations with all men.

Jesus did not change one fundamental doctrine of Judaism. He approved the teachings of Judaism, but reproached the mal-practices of it. He, as well as the prophets of

Israel, attained unto atonement with God, by fulfilling in His life, the Spirit of Truth to be found in the heart of the Old Testament. The Eternal Truths taught by Moses and the prophets are as effective as of old, in bringing God into the lives of the people, provided they are applied in an ever greater degree.

The world needs not only one Son of God to be the vicarious atonement for the sins of the world, it needs the self-sacrifices of every one. When any soul, thru the many little sacrifices becomes the "Diamond Soul," there will be another Son of God arisen to strengthen the virtuous elements in every being. Thus it goes on forever. It is no exclusive job, this being a Son of God. You, too, have the privilege, if you avail yourself of the discipline.

The Eternal is forever existent. When your nature eternally, automatically and involuntarily co-operates with Him you will co-exist with Him.

The degree of monetary profit in human relations, is the degree in which the divine life is retarded in expression. The elimination of monetary profits would bring in the

realization of the divine profits, that helpful human relations engender. He spiritually profits most who lives for the well-being of the largest number.

We all feel at our best with some people; they bring out our Soul. Whenever a human soul is *enrapport* with the Divine Influence, other souls in contact with him are raised to his level of consciousness. The central prophets of religion have been those, who, because of their motives and life, have made the at-one-ment with God. All others seeking God can more easily arrive thru their teachings and personal guidance than they can unaided.

We are all just common folks—ordinary diamonds in the rough. All have one or another facet cut and polished. We will be required to remain in the workshop of nature, until the perfected “gem” can be set in the eternal “ring” of service.

PHILOSOPHY

"Lord," "God," "Jehovah," and "I AM That I AM" are centers of consciousness, wisdom, love, beauty and power beneficently co-operating with the Omnipotent Mind-Soul.

This is a thot created world. It is a unity in fact. From the omnipotent altitude there is but one being in the universe—God. From the individual point of view it is often a world in a more or less chaotic state! As you approach "realization" you see only infinite order.

An initiate into the "mysteries of the kingdom of heaven" has an eternal sympathy with the spiritual complexities of the people. He can lead them into the kingdom without changing their religion. He will teach how to deepen and broaden it by living it, which will then require reinterpretation at each successive stage of growth.

Saving for a rainy day may mean more than accumulating a sum of money. The friends you make, the services you render, the kindnesses you perform are the influences that make for peace when the rainy season comes.

Conservation of health thru natural exercises, storing up knowledge, cultivating the fruits of the Spirit, are all laying up for that rainy day. A hopeful, cheerful eternal philosophy of life, a faith in the guidance of a loving Heavenly Father, a constant alertness to fulfill His Will, will make the thot of the rainy day season one of cheerfulness.

To expect one hundred per cent of purity, truth, righteousness or nobility in any one is to be disappointed. Even God in manifestation is not wholly Himself. Perfection is with Him alone in his unmanifest state. Therefore, be tolerant, be patient, be hopeful, and your well being is increased. You only change the world by improving yourself. The quality of your nature has a creative effect upon all with whom you come in contact.

Miscellaneous

THE CHURCH IN POLITICS

The world is dominated by monetary interests. It should be dominated by humanitarian interests. Our religious, social and industrial life are dwarfed, our press is stultified, our educational system is becoming demoralized. Only the united religious consciousness of the nation, aligned politically, can overthrow this condition.

Every church, temple and synagogue should have a department devoted to politics. The quality of the government leaves the stamp of its nature upon the whole community. It moulds the ideals of all of the people all of the time. The church touches some of the people once or twice a week and mainly from a theoretical angle.

The religious people of every community, united politically, can attain, almost at once, the balance of power. In the degree that its elected representatives truly grasp the needs of the people, and contribute to the mass well-being, will it in a very short time become the dominant party.

No other party will fight like the religious party for its ideals, for that is its life.

No other party has as strong an organization back of it.

No other party has the psychological background, the appeal to the best in all of the people.

No other party has as much of the public confidence.

No other party can carry on a campaign as enthusiastically or as economically, when once aroused.

No other party could attract both labor and the women to its banner.

No other party could bring the best elements of the community together in a spirit of co-operation, nor bring the best talent to work in political offices.

The women of the country should have a party of their own, or help in the creation of a party based upon humanitarian principles. They should not join either the Democratic or Republican parties, as the party bosses will control the force of their ballots for a long time to come. A Humanitarian Party of men and women who put humanity before money is the only medium worthy of the character of our new voters.

We need, not another party competing with those now in the field, but one that will co-operate for the election of the best men in the community. The greater the number of parties in a country the more mediocre will be its government. Only when better men are available should this party put a candidate in the field. This would compel all parties to function upon a higher plane and give the Humanitarian Party greater force than as a competing unit.

Religionizing the American will be the best means of Americanizing the immigrant.

A change in the present condition of things can be brought about by a new political party, whose ideals are progressive, yet conservative, and that would appeal to the Catholic, the Protestant, the Jew, as well as woman suffrage and labor.

PSYCHISM

A spirit of open-mindedness is as necessary in the realm of the super-physical as it is in the material world. In order that investigations shall bring forth wholesome knowledge it will require the very highest qualifications both of character and scientific training to intelligently interpret the facts.

The problem is here and must be faced. It is not solved by merely condemning it. To those who have "faith," most of the problems of life are satisfactorily solved. To those who have no faith, conclusive evidence will in many instances cause a modification of life toward the eternal viewpoint.

The indiscriminate use of ouija boards, visiting mediums, encouraging mediumship and sitting for "development" are all to be roundly condemned, as they are fraught with great mental and moral dangers. The case against the ouija boards was neatly disposed of by a writer, who said: "Let us do away with our telephones, telegraph and wireless and install ouija boards."

The opening of the psychic doors, to be wholesome, can only come thru intensifying of the divine spirit within you. Those whose character has not been fully developed at-

tempting it, will very likely increase the basest elements in their nature, and indefinitely postpone their natural and harmonious development.

The qualified and earnest student reading the many interesting books written on the subject will best stimulate his growth by appropriating the ethical, moral and religious precepts to be found abundantly in every book of value. Experiments are costly and dangerous unless made under the direct guidance of a Divine Master.

Upon the earth plane where we can see and hear we often get into contact with the undesirable elements in human life. How much more upon the psychic plane when we are groping in the dark, being blind and deaf.

Live in one world at a time, and when you have learned all it has to teach, will you be ready to master the next plane. This world has enough ills to guard against without opening yourself to the destructive forces upon other planes.

Only when you can constructively react to every adverse condition and circumstance on this plane are you ready to begin the mastery of succeeding planes.

Playing with psychic forces, thru ouija boards and mediumship is apt to be like the breaking of the shell of an egg, from without, while being hatched, instead of thru the growth of the chick within.

Those desiring contact with and comfort from loved ones who have passed on, can best attain their desire thru the Religious Force. This is the strongest tie they have in common, as all souls are ballasted with it. While a consciousness of their presence is apt to be rare, the assurance and comfort are certain. No enlightened soul will use ouija boards or the "medium" who goes into a trance, as these methods do not make for true progress. The exanimate intelligences that will "use" a medium or a ouija board as a means of communication, are either ignorant of the better means of communication, as well as of the possible deleterious effects on those so used, or are of a malicious type. Seek not "unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and that mutter. Should not a people seek unto their God?"

LETTERS
TO THE PRESS

THANKFULNESS

Let us be thankful for life, for its privileges, its duties, its friendships, for home and love.

Let us be thankful for the great good we must make out of the havoc of war, greater bond of unity between nations, greater opportunity of every nation to fulfill its destiny; for the greater internationalism that will follow in commerce, in education and in religion; for the greater democracy that will exist; for the greater conservation of human life that will be inaugurated; for the greater valuation of the individual life and for the deepening of the religious life of the world.

Above all, let us be thankful for the sacrifices every nation and every individual is called upon to make, for out of them will come a revaluation and readjustment of life toward greater idealism.

CONVERSION OF JEWS

Dear Sir:

The Plain Dealer of January 17 published a statement under the heading of "Begin Week of Prayer," in which it stated that on Saturday, Cleveland Catholics were to pray for the conversion of the Jews.

I desire, as a member of this race, to thank most heartily the Cleveland Catholics for their kind interest in me and my race. Thoughtfulness for the welfare of others I have been taught by my religion to be a worthy quality to emulate at all times.

Since it is the desire of our good Catholic friends to convert us, it would seem in order to inquire as to the good said conversion is to produce in us. Surely, the Catholic, being religious, must desire our well-being, and thru the conversion, hope to benefit us.

Since this conversion then is for our good, just wherein are Catholics, as a class, better than Jews, as a class, that the former are so earnest for our conversion, and the latter so in need of it?

Are all Catholics so saintly, so self-sacrificing, such good citizens, such profiteerless

business men, that there is no further need for prayers for those now in the Catholic fold, and that because of this excess of goodness on their part, it must needs find another field of action, and because of the depravity of us Jews, their hearts go out to us?

No doubt this zeal is because Christ said go out into all the world and convert the heathen, of whom we now seem to be the ones most in need of spiritual attention.

Christ also said that you should let your light so shine that men seeing your good works might glorify the Father in Heaven.

Explaining this sentence, I might say, that every action in which the spirit of the Lord is the moving power, brings in time a reaction which will bring the spirit of the Lord, or the Eternal Nature of the party for whom the action was done, into greater expression.

In other words, you sow the divine spirit in another's heart by righteous actions and in time his divine spirit will come forth.

The following of this line of conduct by the Cleveland Catholics will no doubt have the desired effect, but prayer for us without it most assuredly will not.

The late war was caused by the attitude of the Germans in thinking themselves the supe-

rior race, and I am happy to say, that our good Catholic, Christian and Jewish brethren fought successfully for its elimination.

I am not now blaming the Catholic laity in this matter, but the Catholic officials responsible for it, acted, to say the least, in an unenlightened manner.

Suppose all the world became Catholic tomorrow, do you feel that the millenium will have arrived, that all men will become ideal fathers, husbands, citizens, and all women saints, and all children angels? If that were so, all those professing Catholicism are now angels and saints?

I have recently returned from overseas where I have been for about nineteen months, and have come into close touch with thousands of men of the United States, some of France, some of Germany and a few of Belgium.

Frankly, during all this experience, I cannot honestly say that the Catholics I have met were always the superior people.

Without question, at religious services,—and I frequently attended the religious services of all classes of men—the Catholics had the largest number of regular attendants. But for all that I cannot say that they were the

best, or that man for man they could not be matched by any other class.

I visited the wonderful cathedrals of Europe, and Catholicism is to be given great credit for the splendid work it is doing in keeping the religious flame alive over there. But the attendance in those places was far below their capacity.

Let us remember that the most important thing in life is one's actions, which are the acid test of one's religion, and endeavor to surpass in them, and though that method may take longer for conversion, it is the sure way.

The myriads of souls of the Catholics, the Christians and the Jews, who are in need of spiritual guidance is greater today than in all history.

Each of us has many times more than it can possibly do in a generation. Each of us can work best with his own group on account of hereditary and environmental conditions.

Let us each address ourselves to the overwhelming task before us and when we have fully completed our work, then let us offer such help as we can give and as will be acceptable.

Sincerely,

Aaron Wirpel.

The above letter has been included in this collection because the writer feels it is very timely for all sects. Also because of the need for all religious forces at home, rather than abroad—at least until our nation stands highest in the scale of righteousness.

Published in the Jewish Review and Observer and the Catholic Universe Jan. 23, 1920.

ON COUEISM

January 26, 1923.

"Every day in every way, I am getting better and better" is a splendid headlight to light up the path before us. It will take steam, however, to move us forward, and intelligence to engineer us to the station of health, happiness and success. Merely repeating a statement cannot cause the activities of body, emotions, mind, soul and spirit to express health, wholesomeness and happiness. Every department of our being must be purified, fed, clothed and exercised purposefully to attain and maintain a high degree of efficiency. Only then will harmony and well being become permanent.

MISCELLANEOUS THOTS

Old age is not the habit of Nature, but is of the nature of habit.

When you do anything, you deny every other element from expression thru you at that time. There is no doubt you want what you want, but are you sure you want the results of your actions? You cannot have the one without the other

Instead of carrying a grudge on your shoulder, carry mercy there. It will pay more dividends of friendship and happiness.

When you can feel one or another of the divine elements in every one you touch, you are definitely ascending "Jacob's Ladder" to at-one-ment with God.

The more universal the thot, feeling and attitude that you hold toward others, the deeper, stronger and more refined the natural inspiration when in relation with them.

Loyalty to country is good, loyalty to God is better and no man who is loyal to God can be disloyal to his country.

Human nature does change. Education modifies it, and love transmutes it. The degree of experience is the measure of its progress.

He is an educated man that gets some good out of every experience, and by the force of his character contributes something to every one he touches.

The first step in education should be to learn some useful work that the world needs. The second, to develop a character that brings out the best in every one you touch. The third, to enlarge your field of usefulness and so polish your nature as to function artistically in relation to every one and everything.

The reason most people amount to so little, is because they spend so much time watching the march of events, that they have so little left to build the character and capacity to create them.

The degree of your character is the degree in which you modify every set of circumstances your life or influence touches.

What you usually think will gradually determine how you feel, regardless of how things are.

The recreative power of silence is wonderful. To think or speak of your irritations resurrects them. Silence causes the spirit of peace to descend upon you and them.

Only true beauty is soul deep.

He that follows in the footsteps of the Master, will have followers stepping in his footsteps as their master.

The physical body is but a straight-jacket to the soul. Thus are "treated" all souls who get the disease known as "materialitis."

Give advice! It may not hurt the other fellow and is sure to do you some good.

That which is essentially you, your character, is kneading its influence into the life of humanity.

There is no music like the charm of a good woman's presence.

Authority of the past should be the pathway of experiment for those who want to know.

Sunnyside of the morning to you!

The value of the bible consists in the fact

that, like veins of gold, the Spirit of God is interwoven in its text.

The music of a human smile is sweetest when it comes from the heart of a child.

In order to understand the bible, read the golden extracts of all the bibles of the world. However, no real headway will be made without fulfilling the duties enjoined in it.

A sure way of getting rid of your "stock of wickedness" is to see that it does not pay dividends. The "Devil" will then take it away and place it where it will be more productive.

There is no cure-all. It is a case of each cure each.

What you think of others may not affect them, but makes your nature conform somewhat to your thot, whatever it may be. When you hold a constructive thot about them, you might help them and you are sure to do yourself some good.

Consciousness never ages—only its vestures.

Sin is the investment of your energies so that they yield dividends of pain, discord and agony. Any of the bibles of the world will

teach you how to become a good banker of them.

Cleanliness is godliness. This is especially true where it extends to the body, mind, soul and spirit.

When we view the physical nature of anyone, let us try to remember that we see only one facet of a diamond personality.

Resourcefulness comes from living from the source of all life. The larger the number, whose well being you consider in all your actions, the greater the contact with the Divine Life, Power and Wisdom.

The high cost of living is a great educator. It is teaching, among other things, discrimination, co-operation, simplicity, and the value as well as the need of a more general religious education.

Sin is unenlightenment in motives, thots, feelings and actions. Sin does not make your Eternal Nature less eternal, but degrades its "nature"—its instrument, hampering Self-expression.

The human form divine is one of the great productions of the Divine Artist. One part of the human race seems to feel that another

part needs lessons in living art, judging by the progressive unveiling of the human figure!

You are apt to look at your job or position for what it will give you of money, prestige, power, or simply as a means of a livelihood. God looks at it also as to what qualities of heart and mind it will develop, what experience it will give, rounding your nature to conform to His plan for His Work.

Kissing is natural and healthful, especially when the heart and soul influences are active. Germs cannot live in the influence of a soul kiss. When the baser elements are the motive for kissing or when one is not well it is to be avoided.

It does not take as much energy and time to say something useful and kind as it does to say something unkind. The former requires a bit of thoughtfulness, but brings hosts of friends; the other adds to your natural enemies.

We are pens in the hand of God. Unless the pens are dipped in the bottle of truth, when we try to write, we produce only scratches.

Seek to solve the mysteries of life and you find—more mysteries!

If you have not the capacity to constructively interpret an action, perhaps you have not the intelligence to correctly denounce said action. At any rate, those who have the former, seldom do the latter.

Life is being crystalized into reality. Your present state of thot and feeling is being indelibly impressed upon your nature. The use of the Spirit of Wisdom and Intelligence in the blending of the colors of your thots, feelings and actions will insure the stamp of beauty on your vestures.

Every one is naturally good. When the stream of life is at low tide in your soul, and the influence of adverse circumstances at high tide, the resulting actions will impoverish you to a greater degree. Only as the soul is bound to God, or to a band of His Divine Servants, can one generate strength to master such a situation.

Humanitarian broadmindedness within the type is the ideal broadmindedness. The gain of broadmindedness thru the loss of the soul and individuality is a loss both to the individual and society. The gain of broadmindedness thru the type is a gain to the individual and to society.

Many a man on becoming rich, loses among other things, the fine fellowship contact he had with humanity, and then wonders why his health is not as good as formerly. His nature becoming, like a running brook, whose waters have been dammed up.

There is always something new, but the best of the old is always the best.

We are artists, painting our own portraits as we go thru life. Every observation we make of others, of life in general, is a line, a pigment, a tint. What we continuously see, we unconsciously reproduce. We have the privilege, however, of adjusting the angle of vision!

Belonging to a church, does not annul the reactive effect of immoral or inhuman standards of life or business. The eternal standards, when followed, bring increase of physical, mental, and spiritual power and quality. Everyone would follow these standards, if they could be made to see, in as tangible form as dollars, that which is purchased thereby. Those who will not learn in any other school but experience, cannot cheat suffering of its mortgage on their lives.

The voice is largely an index of the character, culture and divine religiousness of the individual. One cannot live united with God and his voice not express something of the eternal harmony. One cannot be dominated by materialistic principles, and live a selfish, circumscribed life and be free from strident tones.

The Soul is woven of the nature of Life, Light, Truth, Love, Will, Wisdom and Fire.

One may have a favorite tree, but refreshing breezes can be had from any tree. We may get our spiritual food from one favorite source, yet any human being can be the source of divine inspiration if one can behold the God enshrined within him.

Unless you live from principle can the powers of your soul unfold.

There will never be a lasting peace between individuals and nations until men are at peace with God.

Observance of holidays by abstaining from work is good. Observance by abstaining from unrighteousness is better. Observance by abstaining from work and by fulfilling God's Will for you is best.

All actions are imprinted on your nature, with the ink of living fire.

I believe in women being well-dressed. I believe in their wearing jewels and ornament—jewels of virtue, worn in the soul, beads of truth, ornamenting the mind, and also beautiful clothes, which express the beauty, purity and refinement of their nature.

There is an idea abroad that a man loses when he stands for principles. That is equivalent to saying, that a muscle is able to do less, as it grows stronger! If you possess the virtue of a principle, to part with it for a material gain is like selling one's birthright for a mess of pottage.

Peace between nations is not primarily dependent upon treaties or even leagues. It is dependent upon eternal righteousness. Wars will continue if the peoples are unrighteous, even with leagues and treaties. Only if God holds the reins of government, are the desires and policies of peoples apt to be within the eternal rights of nations, in relation to each other.

* * *

Peace to all beings.

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